

1 July 2013

Subj: Encryption of Amateur Radio Communications (RM-11699).

MY POSITION: I'm in favor of and recommend the authorization of permitting encryption of messages that are transmitted, relayed, and delivered using Amateur Radio communications in the Amateur Radio Service with the following caveats:

- The use of encryption is limited to messages that are originated by nationally recognized disaster, emergency, contingency agencies (e.g. Red Cross, FEMA, local Government civil agencies, non-governmental agencies -NGO's, etc.).
- The encryption tool, program, device, or equipment is approved for such use by the National Security Administration (NSA). Home-made, non-NSA approved cyphers would not be permitted.
- Any message communicated over the Amateur Radio Service must include brief information in clear text (plain language) that identifies these minimum qualities:

- 1) The encryption tool, program, device, or equipment that was used to encrypt the traffic.
- 2) Include the point-of-contact information for the originating office of the supported agency that encrypted the traffic.

DISCUSSION: I believe there are legitimate situations and circumstances where the protection of information by use of encryption is appropriate when communicated through the Amateur Radio service. I do not advocate the use of encryption for "every day" communications between Amateur Radio stations. Instead, I support and encourage approval of encryption of message traffic by the Amateur Radio service for the limited use of protecting communications that originate from supported nationally recognized disaster, emergency or contingency communications organizations and agencies. Further, so that Federal or National authorities have the ability to investigate questionable encrypted communications, all encrypted communications through the Amateur Radio service must also include plain text (plain language) information that identify the source of encryption (POC name, office, and other contact information).

Respectfully,

{original signed; valid for email}
Daniel V. Wolff, Jr.
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